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# From the Ambassador's Desk

June 2015

Versão Portuguesa

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHT



From our [Photo Gallery](#):  
Spelling Bee Finale, May 9  
at Instituto Superior Técnico

## AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

>> [From Ambassador Robert A. Sherman](#)



Summer is here bringing warm weather and more activity at the Embassy. I just returned from the United States where I had the opportunity to attend NAFSA, a major conference on international educational exchange. I was pleased to advocate for Portugal as a study destination and to help develop relationships between universities in the United States and Portugal that will hopefully bring more Portuguese students to the U.S. and more American students to Portugal. The quality of education in both our countries is the best in the world, and we understand the value of educational exchanges, that they create ties that create opportunities for travel and tourism and an exchange of ideas and culture in the short term, and lead into onward business careers in the

long term.

This month has begun with a Life Sciences Mission, led by Nobel Laureate Dr. Craig Mello. The trade mission is visiting Lisbon, Coimbra, Braga and Porto, and the delegation is meeting with a range of Portuguese entities, including incubators, businesses, researchers, universities, venture capitalists, foundations, etc. A key focus of this trade mission is to accelerate innovation and bring ideas, medicine, and technology from the lab to the market.

June is also Pride Month, a time to raise the visibility of the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) individuals. I am looking forward to celebrating this month with members of the LGBTI community, their supporters and allies.

Lisbon will also play host to the World Ocean Summit June 3-5. The summit's theme is "blue economy and blue growth," with a focus on the economy of our oceans. An Undersecretary from the Department of State and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (who is also a Department of Commerce Undersecretary) will be attending the summit and participating in meetings here in Lisbon. And next month we will mark the 239th anniversary of the independence of the United States of America.

I am looking forward to a busy summer and hope to see you at one of our events.

## FEATURE STORY

>> [U.S. is Committed to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTI](#)



President Obama has identified promoting and protecting the human rights of lesbian, gay, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) persons as a United States government priority. As such, the United States remains unwavering in its commitment to advance the human rights of LGBTI persons domestically and around the world. In February, President Obama appointed Randy Berry as first U.S. Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Persons. Through the Global Equality Fund, the United States has provided critical assistance to organizations and human rights defenders in more than 50 countries who are courageously working to combat negative social attitudes and discrimination

and build stronger allies in support of the human rights of LGBTI persons.

The U.S. Embassy in Lisbon has established and continues to maintain excellent relations with the Portuguese LGBTI community. In years past, the Embassy has sponsored events and roundtables focusing on LGBT rights as human rights. Presently, the Embassy is exploring different options to partner with civil society to celebrate Pride Month in June. Furthermore, through the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the Embassy will sponsor an individual to travel to the United States this year to participate in a Civil Rights Program for the LGBTI community. The program will highlight what the U.S. government has done to promote LGBTI rights as human rights and how U.S. law enshrines and protects them. Despite positive steps the United States has taken in this area, there is still work to be done.

Overall, the Embassy commends Portugal for its welcoming stance towards members of the LGBTI community. Of particular note is the Portuguese government's granting of asylum to two Ugandan nationals in 2013 who were persecuted on the basis of their sexual orientation. The Embassy looks forward to continuing to work with the Portuguese government and civil society to advance the rights of LGBTI persons here and around the world.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### >> [Join Entrepreneur Sandra Correia for a Global Webcast of “Raising Capital”](#)



Want to turn your business dreams into realities? Join the latest interactive web chat in the #EntrExchange series, “[Raising Capital: Trends & Innovations](#)” with special guests Sandra Correia (Pelcor CEO, IVLP alumna, and 2011 “Best Entrepreneur in Europe”) and American entrepreneur, Dante Disparte, founder and CEO of Risk Cooperative. This virtual program is designed to help entrepreneurs find funds to launch, sustain, and expand business ventures. Learn more here: <https://goo.gl/iV7Ebl>.

Embassy Lisbon in partnership with American Corner@FCT-NOVA is hosting a viewing party of the webcast. It will take place on June 4, 12:45-14:30, [FCT-NOVA](#), Anfiteatro Leopoldo Guimarães (Edifício CENIMAT). There will be a Q&A session with Sandra Correia following the live web chat. If you are interested in joining the viewing party and meeting Sandra in person, email [alumniportugal@state.gov](mailto:alumniportugal@state.gov).

### >> [Alumni Professional Development Workshops: Basics of Video Production](#)



Alumni—do you want to improve your video and photo taking skills? Join us on June 6 at the University of Aveiro for a Basics of Video production workshop, and on June 20 at FLUL- Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa for an Introduction to Photography workshop.

We have travel grants available to support alumni from different regions who wish to participate.

For more info and to register, email [alumniportugal@state.gov](mailto:alumniportugal@state.gov)

### >> [Win Up to \\$500,000 for Science and Tech Solutions to Stamp Out Wildlife Crime](#)



Wildlife trafficking is pushing many animals towards extinction, including species of elephants, rhinos, tigers, pangolins, turtles, and parrots. Are you a mobile developer, conservation biologist, engineer, forensic scientist, social media analyst, or entrepreneur with a great idea? Apply to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge! The Challenge will reward the most innovative

science and technology solutions—at any stage of innovation, from anywhere in the world, and from all areas of expertise. [Learn more>>](#)

### >> [Cine Clube film screening at American Corner, FCT-NOVA](#)

*Alien* on June 16@5:00 p.m.  
American Corner, FCT-NOVA (Library Auditorium)  
<http://bibliotecaunl.blogspot.pt/search/label/Cineclube%202015>

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